

Gregory J. Smith
Assessor/Recorder/County Clerk
Commissioner of Civil Marriages
1983 – 2008

FACT SHEET

- 25 years as the County Assessor which is currently the longest tenure in the state and the longest tenure ever in San Diego County history.
- Appointed in September 1983 as the San Diego County Assessor and was elected in June 1984. In 1994 assumed the duties of the Recorder/County Clerk.
- Received 38 Awards for Excellence from the National Association of Counties and the California State Association of Counties.
- Has donated \$88,500 to the Polinsky Children's Center from the sale of wedding photos.
- Moved our leased facilities into County owned locations for significant long term savings. Made space available for the Tax Collector at all locations to improve customer service
- Five offices conveniently located throughout the County to serve the public.
 - Downtown San Diego, San Marcos, Chula Vista, El Cajon and Kearny Mesa
 - Saturday service at the Kearny Mesa location from 9am to 3pm.
- Created a "One Stop Shop" for customers at the County Administration Center, Room 103, which includes real and personal property assessment, real estate document recording and Tax Collector information.
- 24 hour telephone information and an interactive web site for ordering documents and downloading forms.

- Assesses all real and personal property in the county for tax purposes; maintains all property records; records real estate documents; issues marriage licenses and performs civil ceremonies; issues birth, death and marriage certificates; and files fictitious business names.
- The department has 466 full time employees.
- An increase in assessed value of **638%**
 1983 - 55.5 billion
 2008 - 409.4 billion
 An increase in parcels of **57%**
 1983 - 622,348
 2008 - 975,679
- Every four years, the State Board of Equalization conducts an assessment practices survey to ensure that each county in California is complying with the rules and regulations mandated by State law. The survey consists of a review of the office policies and practices, and a sampling of assessment values. The San Diego County Assessors Office has always had outstanding surveys. The last survey compliments the office on many of its programs, and especially commends the office for its proactive response to the victims of the three major wildfires. The survey sample of assessment values indicates San Diego's average assessment ratio is an outstanding **99.95%**. The surveys confirm that San Diego County property owners are being treated uniformly, with fairness, equity and integrity in regards to their property tax assessment.
- San Diego executed a Multi-County Agreement with the Counties of Los Angeles, Orange and Riverside for the electronic delivery, recording and return of real property documents. Electronic recording is scheduled to begin in 2010 in San Diego County.
- Performs 49% of all marriage ceremonies in the County of San Diego.
- First in the State to offer "Weddings on the Web".
- Created various marriage mementoes for couples to purchase: Photos, DVD's, keepsakes, rings, pens and "Just Married" bumper stickers.

- Informative brochures designed for all programs administered by the office which has been copied by numerous other counties throughout the State.
- Actively promoted the “Deputy Marriage Commissioner for a Day” program which officially appoints friends or relatives of the couple to perform their wedding ceremony.
- Designed and created the “Arbor of Love” for couples that wish to be married outside at the scenic County Administration Center overlooking San Diego Bay.
- Implemented an extremely successful marriage appointment system on June 17th, the first day of same sex marriages, to serve the public more efficiently. This system is still operational.